GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:504
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2000
FALL IN POVERTY LINE
PRABHUNATH SINGH

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) Whether it is a fact that there has been a fall in poverty line in the last few years;

(b) if so, the percentage of people living below poverty line as on date and how does that compare with each of the last ten year`s, year- wise; and;

(c) the basis on which the Government come to a conclusion in the fall of the poverty line?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, ADMINISTRATIVE REFORI PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE)

(a) to (c) : The Planning Commissionestimates percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national and state level from the large sample surveys on consumer expenditure conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) at an interval of approximately five years. The latest estimates of poverty are available for the year 1993-94 based on the National Sample Survey data on consumer expenditure of the 50th Round. The full data from next large survey on consumer expenditure conducted during the period July, 1999 to June, 2000 are under process. As such, the estimates of percentage of people living below the poverty line as on date and also during each of the last ten years are not available. The comparable estimates of poverty on the basis of large sample survey on consumer expenditure since 1977-78 show a regular decline in the estimates of percentage of persons living below the poverty line at national level as can be seen from the Table below.

Percentage of People below the Poverty Line

1977-78	51.32%
1983	44.48%
1987-88	38.86%
1993-94	35.97%